

REMARKS

Claims 9-15 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, independent claim 9 is amended to even further distinguish over the applied references. Support for the amendments to independent claim 9 can be found, for example, in Figs. 2 and 3 and on page 9, lines 3-8 of the specification. No new matter is added. Reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The courtesies extended to Applicants' representative by Examiners Suereth and McCallister at the interview held September 16, 2008, are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below, which constitute Applicants' record of the interview.

The Office Action rejects claims 9, 10 and 12-15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Schirmer, U.S. Patent No. 4,006,589, in view of Polomchak et al. (Polomchak), U.S. Patent No. 5,380,194. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed during the interview, the combination of Schirmer and Polomchak does not disclose, and would not have rendered obvious, a combustor having a means for introducing a straight-line air current into a burner tile, which straightly flows in a vicinity of a burner nozzle from a first end to a second end of the burner tile at which there is an opening of the burner tile by operation of a blower, the straight-line air current flowing straightly through a central portion of the burner tile from the first end to the second end such that the straight-line air current extends through an entire region through which combustion occurs, as recited in independent claim 9.

As discussed during the interview, the first air stream in Schirmer would be broken up and would not continue throughout an entire region where combustion occurs. Schirmer discloses that combustion occurs in flame tube 14 (see Fig. 1 and col. 5, lines 32-38 and col.

7, lines 39-46, 61 and 62). Further, as acknowledged during the interview, the first air stream of Schirmer would not extend to the opposite end of flame tube 14. This is especially true since Schirmer discloses a tapered portion between the first and second combustion regions that would disrupt the first air stream by causing the first air stream to mix with the second air stream (see Fig. 1 and col. 5, lines 11-15). Further, Schirmer discloses that the counterclockwise air from the third air stream neutralizes the clockwise swirl of the second air stream so that the flame is stabilized and compact (see Fig. 1 and col. 11, lines 44-56). Therefore, as discussed during the interview, the interaction of the tapered portion in conjunction with the second and third air streams of Schirmer would disrupt any alleged straight-line air current from flowing to the opposite end of flame tube 14. Polomchak fails to overcome the deficiencies of Schirmer, and is only cited for disclosing a blower. Moreover, the blower 86 of Polomchak would disrupt any axial straight-line air current from reaching the opposite end of combustion chamber 46 (see Fig. 4). Therefore, the combination of Schirmer and Polomchak does not disclose, and would not have rendered obvious, a combustor having a means for introducing a straight-line air current into a burner tile, which straightly flows in a vicinity of a burner nozzle from a first end to a second end of the burner tile at which there is an opening of the burner tile by operation of a blower, the straight-line air current flowing straightly through a central portion of the burner tile from the first end to the second end such that the straight-line air current extends through an entire region through which combustion occurs, as recited in independent claim 9. Therefore, independent claim 9 and dependent claims 10 and 12-15 are patentable over the combination of Schirmer and Polomchak. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

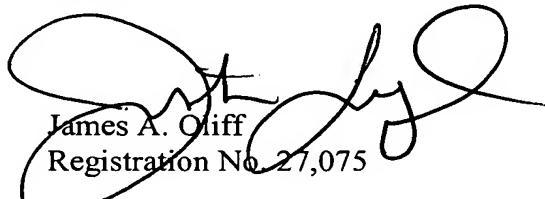
The Office Action rejects claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Schirmer in view of Polomchak, and in further view of Nakamura et al. (Nakamura), U.S. Patent No. 4,974,780. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Because claim 11 incorporates the features of independent claim 9, and because Nakamura fails to overcome the deficiencies of Schirmer and Polomchak, claim 11 also is patentable over the applied references for at least these reasons, as well as for the additional features that claim 11 recites. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

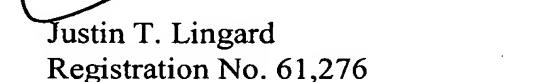
In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:

Request for Continued Examination

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